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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,913	10/29/2003	Gen Sasaki	244176US2 DIV	4521

22850 7590 06/28/2006

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EXAMINER

TRAN, NHAN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/694,913	SASAKI, GEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nhan T. Tran	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/29/2003 & 1/29/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/459,574.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/459,574, filed on 12/13/1999.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 10/29/2003 & 1/29/2004 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

Specification

3. Amendment to specification filed 10/29/2003 to include the paragraph of "This application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/459,574, filed December 13, 1999, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference." is acknowledged and accepted.
4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 16 is objected to because of recitation of "the rearmost stage of said shift register" (preliminary amendment, page 4, line 1) and recitation of "the foremost stage" (preliminary amendment, page 4, line 6). These limitations should be corrected as --a rearmost stage of said shift register-- and --a foremost stage of said shift register--, respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kapan (US 5,047,863).

Regarding claim 15, Kapan discloses an image processing circuit of an image input device (Fig. 1) which performs a predetermined image processing (amplifying) of image photographed by an image pickup device in said image input device, said circuit comprising:

a real time processing unit (combined circuits 20-26) in which a predetermined general image processing of a pixel data being photographed by said image pickup

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device and inputted sequentially is performed by real time processing (see Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 21-44); and a main memory (36) that stores a pixel data outputted from at least said real time processing unit (20-26), in image frame units (col. 2, line 65 – col. 3, line 7; note that each line of pixels produces an image frame since image frames are not clearly defined in the claim), and wherein, said real time processing unit further comprises a defective pixel compensation block (26) that reads defective pixel addresses (via switch enable line from control processor 34) stored in said main memory (36) disposed outside of said real time processing unit, and performs defective pixel compensation (by switching to either amplifier 22 or 20) when a pixel address of a pixel data residing in image matches said defective pixel address. See Fig. 1 and col. 2, line 59 – col. 3, line 62.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *Note that correction required in claim objection in section 4 shall be complied.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the limitations of claim 16, in combination with independent claim 15, that includes "...said defective pixel compensation block of said real processing unit comprises: a shift register with a

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plurality of registers connected in series, to which defective pixel addresses stored in said main memory are inputted sequentially; a comparator connected to [the] rearmost stage of said shift register in which an address count value of a pixel data inputted sequentially is compared with a defective pixel address provided from the said rearmost stage and, when a match is formed, a defective pixel timing signal is outputted, characterized in that: said shift register holds a defective pixel address, and output of the said rearmost stage is looped to an input terminal of [the] foremost stage; said comparator is a comparator in which an address count value of a pixel data inputted sequentially is compared with a defective pixel address provided from the said rearmost stage and, when a match is found, a shift timing signal and a defective pixel timing signal are outputted; and shift of said shift register is executed by said shift timing signal provided from said comparator."


Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NT.



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER